

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 EPA-04 INT-08 AID-20 CEQ-02

CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 INR-10 IO-13

L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-15 /133 R

DRAFTED BY SCI/EN:SCBLACKISTON:NPS

X-29266, 8-16-73

APPROVED BY SCI/EN:WDCOERR

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R 162046Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E. O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: SENV, PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ALONG BORDER,  
EL PASO, SEPTEMBER 26 - 28, 1973

1. DEPARTMENT ADVISED BY KENNETH BEASLEY, DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO, THAT SEMINAR ON ABOVE SUBJECT BEING HELD UNDER AUSPICES OF GULF UNIVERSITIES' RESEARCH CONSORTIUM, WITH UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO AS HOST. SEMINAR ORIGINALLY CONCEIVED OF AS DEALING EXCLUSIVELY WITH AIR-POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN EL PASO/JUAREZ AREA. INVITATION TO APPROPRIATE LOCAL MEXICAN OFFICIALS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FORWARDED TO MEXICO CITY. SPONSORS OF SEMINAR NOW INFORMED THAT TEAM OF HIGH-LEVEL GOM OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DR. EDUARDO ECHEVERRIA (BROTHER OF PRESIDENT), HEAD OF TECHNICAL COUNCIL OF THE UNDER SECRETARIAT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, WISHES TO ATTEND SEMINAR.

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2. TWO AIDES OF ECHEVERRIA'S HAVE VISITED EL PASO AND INFORMED SEMINAR SPONSORS THAT MEXICAN SIDE DESIRES TO EXPAND SCOPE OF SEMINAR TO INCLUDE OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ALONG ENTIRE BORDER AND THAT ECHEVERRIA DESIRES MAKE "POLICY STATEMENT" AT SEMINAR WHICH WOULD DEAL WITH GOM POLICY TOWARD URBAN SETTLEMENTS ALONG BORDER. MEXICAN AIDES REQUESTED THAT COMPARABLE-LEVEL USG OFFICIALS ATTEND SEMINAR.

3. SEMINAR SPONSORS PERPLEXED BY REASON FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEXICAN DELEGATION PLANNED ATTENDANCE BUT ANXIOUS TO AVOID ANY PROTOCOL PROBLEMS OR SLIGHTS TO HIGH-LEVEL MEXICAN OFFICIALS AND HAVE APPROACHED DEPARTMENT FOR GUIDANCE.

4. DEPARTMENT CONSULTING WITH EPA ON THIS MATTER. EPA PREPARED TO SEND A SENIOR EPA OFFICIAL TO SEMINAR IF THIS APPEARS APPROPRIATE. NO EVIDENCE FROM INFORMATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE THAT MEXICO DESIRES USE SEMINAR AS SOUNDING BOARD FOR ALLEGED GRIEVANCES AGAINST U. S. ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, E. G., COLORADO RIVER SALINITY.

5. BEFORE RECOMMENDING HIGH-LEVEL EPA PARTICIPATION, DEPARTMENT DESIRES MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON EXACTLY WHAT MEXICANS HAVE IN MIND FOR SEMINAR AND NAMES OF SENIOR MEXICAN OFFICIALS WHO MIGHT ATTEND. REQUEST EMBASSY REPLY SOONEST. UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SPONSORS NEED THIS INFORMATION FOR PURPOSE OF STRUCTURING SEMINAR. ROGERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ALONG BORDER, EL PASO, SEPTEMBER 26 - 28, 1973  
**TAGS:** SENV, PBOR, MX  
**To:** MEXICO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005